



# CATALOG

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## Going for the Gold

The Summer Olympics officially begin on July 23, 2021 in Tokyo, Japan. Time to lace up those running shoes, tune up the bicycle, and go for that perfect 10!

Join us this week as we share a variety of records held at the National Archives related to historic Olympic Games and participants.



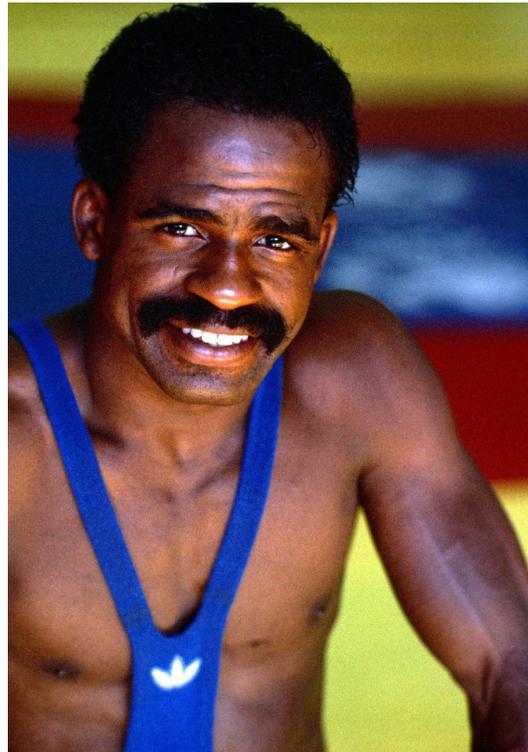
*Members of the US Olympics Team wave to spectators as they march into the LA Coliseum during the opening ceremonies for the 1984 Summer Olympics, 8/9/1984. [National Archives Identifier 6386474](#)*

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The Presidential Libraries of the National Archives hold memories of Olympic Games, as Presidents have traditionally welcomed Olympic teams and athletes to the White House,

and sometimes attended the games in person. Additionally, at prior Olympic games, military photographers captured [images of servicemen and women](#) competing in the games. These photographs are part of the series [Combined Military Service Digital Photographic Files, 1982 - 2007](#).

Here is a selection of some of our favorite Olympic images that can be found in the National Archives Catalog:

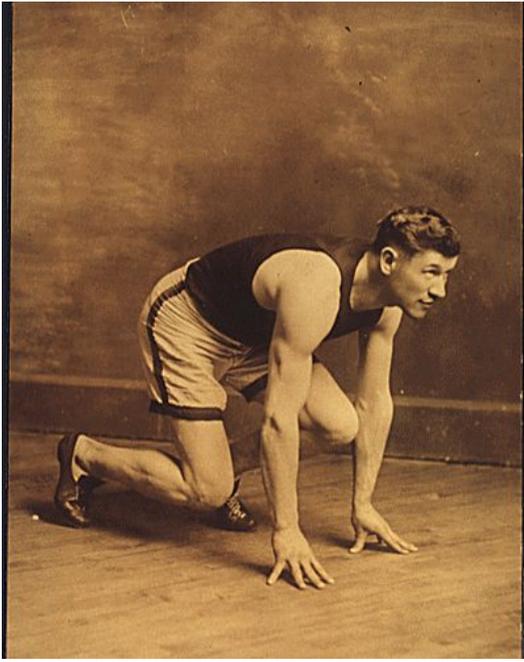


*Army Reserve 1ST Lieutenant John Moreau from San Antonio, Texas, participates in the fencing competition at the 1984 Summer Olympics, 8/1/1984. [National Archives Identifier 6380124](#)*

*T.J. Jones, US Navy, a member of the wrestling team competing at the 1984 Summer Olympics, 8/1/1984. [National Archives Identifier 6380163](#)*

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Photograph of Jim Thorpe, ca. 1910. [National Archives Identifier 595347](#)



Army Captain David L. Gilman, left, from Oakland Army Base, California, and Army National Guard Private First Class Daniel W. Schnurrenberger, members of the kayak team competing at the 1984 Summer Olympics, 8/1/1984 [National Archives Identifier 6380088](#)



Susan Rapp, the daughter of an Army colonel, is among the participants at the start of a race at the 1984 Summer Olympics. She won a silver medal for her performance in the 200 meter breaststroke, 8/6/1984 [National Archives Identifier 6380010](#)



Photograph of President Gerald Ford Watching Track and Field Athletes Practice for the 1976 Summer Olympics at New York State University College Campus in Plattsburgh, New York, 7/10/1976 [National Archives Identifier 7062579](#)



A US Air Force F-111 Aardvark aircraft, with its after burner on, clears the Sydney Harbour Bridge during closing ceremonies of the 2000 Olympics games in Sydney, Australia, 10/1/2000 [National Archives Identifier 6514773](#)

President Ronald Reagan During a Ceremony to Welcome Home The United States Olympic Team Members Who Competed in Seoul, Korea Which Includes Robert Helmick Greg Barton Matt Biondi Janet Evans Florence Griffith Joyner and Andrew Maynard on The South Lawn, 10/24/1988 [National Archives Identifier 75856325](#)



President George W. Bush Hits a Volleyball to U.S. Women's Beach Volleyball Team Member Misty May-Treanor, 8/9/2008 [National Archives Identifier 148035494](#)

President Barack Obama and U.S. Olympic gymnast McKayla Maroney recreate her 'not impressed' photograph, 11/15/2012. [National Archives Identifier 183898490](#)

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## 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin



Photograph of Jesse Owens at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, 1936. [National Archives Identifier 148728022](#)

Photographs of the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin were captured from Nazi Germany at the end of World War II, and can be found in [Record Group 242: National Archives Collection of Foreign Records Seized](#). Learn more about the [Return of Captured Records from World War II on the Pieces of History blog](#).



Photograph of Jesse Owens at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, 1936. [National Archives Identifier 148728028](#)



Photograph of Jesse Owens at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, 1936. [National Archives Identifier 148728032](#)

You can view additional examples from the photograph series [242-HD: Summer Olympic Games, Berlin, August 1936](#) in the National Archives Catalog. Photographs in this series include the lighting of the Olympic Torch at Mt. Olympus; the opening ceremonies in

Berlin; pre-games training by different teams; athletes in the Olympic Village; various ceremonies, pageants and parades; athletes participating in various events; and informal portraits of athletes, crowd scenes and spectators including Adolf Hitler.

Learn more about the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin on the Unwritten Record blog: [This Week in Universal News: The 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin](#)

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## **Louis Zamperini**

Before he was a war hero, Louis Zamperini was an Olympian. Read about his amazing Olympic and war story in the Unwritten Record post, [Louis Zamperini: The Story of a True American Hero](#).



*Photograph of Lt. Lou Zamperini, Bombardier, Examining the Damage a Japanese Cannon Shell did to His Liberator, 1943 [National Archives Identifier 16801970](#)*

Interested in additional Olympic resources? Find dozens of [primary sources related to the Olympics](#) from throughout history on [DocsTeach.org](#), our online tool for teaching with documents. Learn more on the [Education Updates blog](#).

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**Start your research on History Hub**



Have a question? Find your answer on [History Hub!](#)

Free and open to anyone, you can ask questions and get answers from multiple sources including National Archives staff, other archives, libraries, museums, and a community of genealogists, history enthusiasts, and citizen experts like you.

For those looking to conduct research or learn more about records related to historic Olympic games and participants, we encourage you to browse recent posts and questions on History Hub. Recent posts include:

- [\*"America's Olympian: Jesse Owens"\*](#)



***How did security protocols evolve for the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Games?***



***Where can I find records of Olympian Joseph Stadler's African American lineage?***



***Where can I find newsreel footage of Olympian Jim Thorpe's wedding?***



***Where can I locate photos and footage of the first Paralympic Games in 1960?***

See our [recent newsletter for more details, information, and instructions](#) about using History Hub for your research.

Make [History Hub](#) your first stop! You can ask—or answer—questions on History Hub, or see if your question has already been answered.



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### **COVID-19 Update**

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19, and we are working with public health officials and our counterpart agencies to monitor and respond to the evolving conditions and following CDC guidelines.

For more information, visit <https://www.archives.gov/coronavirus>

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Questions or comments? Email us at [catalog@nara.gov](mailto:catalog@nara.gov).



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